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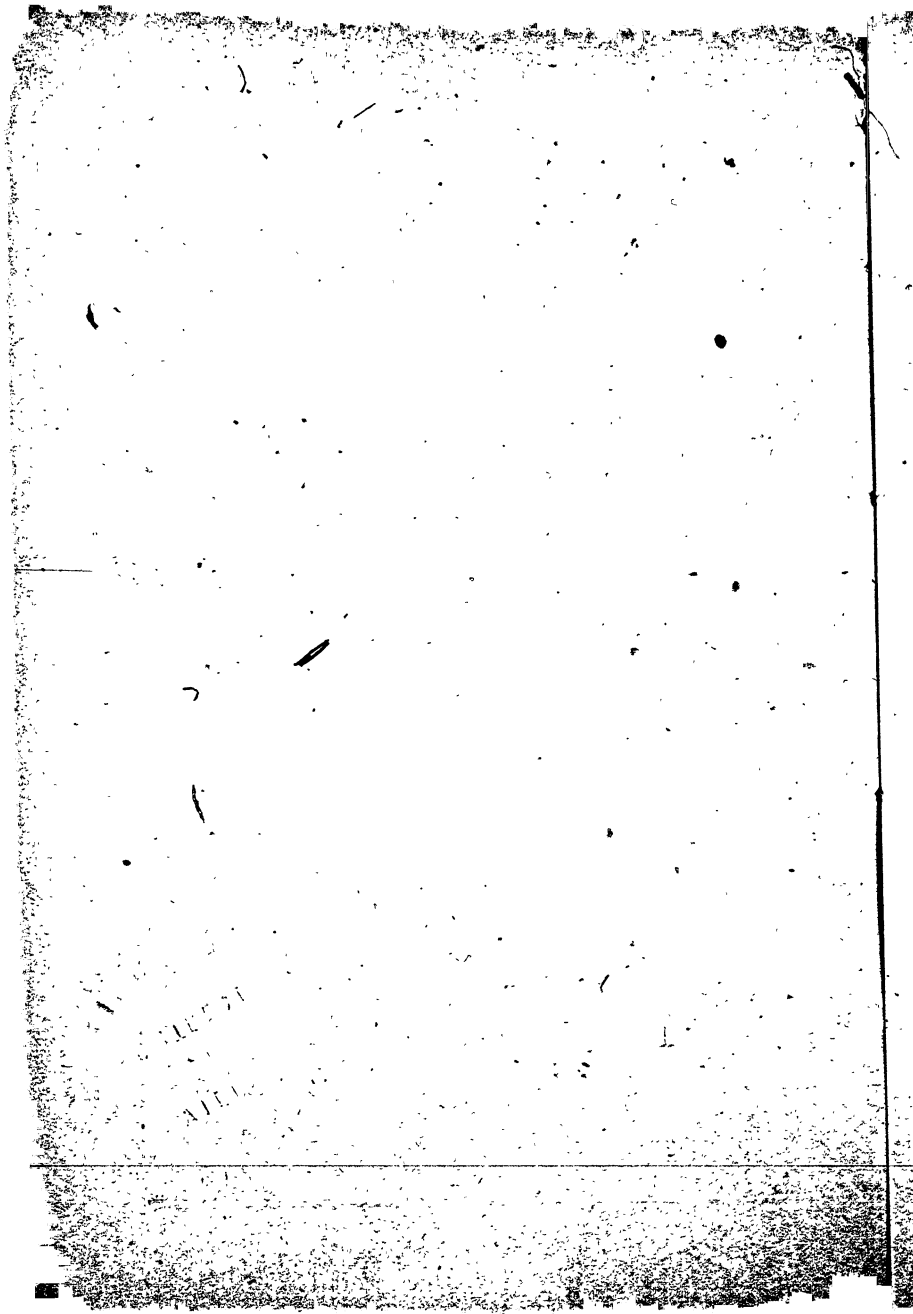
City of Quebec

1884.

Montreal Meeting.

Par Sir James Lethbride

41854



## QUEBEC.

—o—

Deep lined by nature as for proud defence  
'Tis Champlain's town extends a hostess hand ;  
The British ensign crests her citadel,  
And, as it flutters on the breeze, bespeaks  
The war-stained annals of two hundred years  
Writ golden on the fringe of nature's smile.

So much has been written and published in connection with our town and its history that it seems to be almost unnecessary for a committee such as ours to do more than merely to refer our distinguished visitors to the many sources from which information may be drawn. Acting, however, at the suggestion of some of the members of the Association, we have prepared the following brief notes to be of service as a kind of preliminary introduction to some of the natural and historical beauties of one of the oldest cities in North America.

The annals of Quebec city form the key-stone of Canadian history. It has fittingly been called the Ancient Capital of Canada and the Gibraltar of the New World, and stands as a centre of attraction to the traveller as much from the historical memories which seem to float in the air of its narrow streets, as from the varied scenery which surrounds its site. The first impression made upon the mind of a passenger on board one of the Ocean steamers as it passes the inner face of the Island of Orleans, is not likely to be forgotten. Indeed the scene which bursts upon his gaze is the finest view of the city and its surroundings

that can be obtained from any stand-point. "The majestic appearance of Cape Diamond and the fortifications, the cupolas and minarets like those of an eastern city, blazing and sparkling in the sun, the loveliness of the panorama, the noble basin like a sheet of purest silver, in which might ride with safety a hundred sail of the line; the graceful meandering of the river St. Charles, the numerous village spires on either side of the St. Lawrence, the fertile fields dotted with innumerable cottages, the abode of a rich and moral peasantry, the distant falls of Montmorency—the park-like scenery of Point Levi,—the beautiful Isle of Orleans, and more distant still the frowning Cape Tourmente and the lofty range of purple mountains—all these form the grouping of a picture which, without exaggeration, is scarcely to be surpassed in any part of the world,"—

The beautiful shrine of nature gay festooned  
 With woodland grandeur,—where the soul  
 May drink a draught from summer's rippling bloom,  
 That's shed from mountain, plain, and sinuous stream  
 Like sweet ambrosial odour mortalized.

The following facts illustrate the above picture :—

**The Island of Orleans**, which the reader is supposed to be passing, is a favourite resort for Quebecers in summer time. It is twenty miles long and five miles broad. The building near the picturesque wharf is the Island Hotel, and higher up, on sloping ground, stands the church and spire of St. Petronille de Beaulieu. In summer there is a regular ferry communication between the Island and Quebec. The Indians called the Island *Minigo*. It was explored by Jacques Cartier in 1535, who, finding grape vines growing upon it, gave it the name of Isle of Bacchus. A year afterwards, it received its present name in honour of de Valois, Duke of Orleans and son of Francis I. In 1657, it was occupied by six hundred Huron Indians. In 1661, it was overrun by the Iroquois, when a number of Huron settlers were murdered. Before the capture of Quebec by Wolfe, it is said to have been peopled by two thousand people. Wolfe's soldiers landed at St. Laurent, on the south shore, and eventually took possession of the whole Island. The parishes are St. Pierre, Ste. Famille, St. François, St. Jean, St. Laurent and Ste. Petronille.

The Laurentides, or, as they have been called, the Laurentian Hills, form the highlands to the right. They are part of the Laurentian System, originally described by Sir William Logan. They consist of hornblendic and micaceous gneiss, interstratified with irregular beds of crystalline lime-stones and bed-like masses of magnetic oxide of iron and other minerals. The hump-backed peak in the distance, a miniature of Ben Lomond, is in the region of Jacques Cartier River and its lake district, while behind the Falls of Montmorency are the Laval heights, which, in a continuous range, run towards Cape Tourmente.

Point Lévi, which stands to the left, was named after one of the first Viceroys of Canada. It once comprised the town of Lévi and two Villages—Lauzon and Bienville—and the parishes of St. Joseph and St. David. The town has a population of fourteen thousand, and possesses a college and a convent. Indian Cove (Anse aux Sauvages) the indentation near the church, is so called on account of the annual visit of the Micmacs from the Baie des Chaleurs, in New Brunswick, previous to 1850. Here they assembled to receive from the English Commissioners presents of blankets, beads and axes, as the descendants of the warriors who, in 1775 and 1812, had assisted the English in defeating the invaders from the United States. It was at Lévi Wolfe took up his quarters at first, and his example was followed by Arnold in 1775. Round the church of St. Joseph, standing beyond the present graving dock, General Monckton had some lively encounters with the French; and the same church, it is said, was converted into an hospital after the battle on the Plains of Abraham.

Beauport comprises the line of houses on the right, extending along the north shore of the St. Lawrence to the Falls of Montmorency. The parish church is distinguished by its two spires; and partly hidden among the trees is the Provincial Asylum for Lunatics. Montcalm, whose army occupied the whole of the Beauport shore as far as Montmorency Falls during the summer of 1759, strengthened his position by throwing up earth works on an estate now known as Ringfield, above the bridge which spans the St. Charles River. It was to these entrenchments his army retreated after the battle on the Plains. Arnold had

possession of Beauport in 1775, before he made his memorable attack on Quebec. There are some interesting reminiscences connected with the Manor House of Beauport, which is declared to be the oldest of the seigniorial residences built in Canada; it stands about four miles from Quebec.

**The Falls of Montmorency**, originally called *La Vache*, hangs its milk-white curtain of spray to the right. On the shore, in 1759, stood Montcalm's earth-works. The mill at the Falls was built by Peter Paterson. Here it was that Montcalm kept Wolfe at bay before events reached a climax on the Plains of Abraham. Facing the cataract, stands the Mansion House, built by Governor Haldimand and occupied by the Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria, from 1791 to 1794.

**The Lorne Graving Dock**, to the left, on the Point Levis side, was commenced in 1880. It is being built at the expense of the Dominion Government and when finished will be capable of accommodating the largest vessel afloat. Its length is five hundred feet; breadth one hundred feet, and depth twenty-five feet.

**The Louise Embankment** lies at the mouth of the St. Charles, and received its name from the Princess Louise. During the ceremony of laying the memorial stone the Marquis of Lorne said—"Access to Quebec is easy now to the largest ocean-going vessels. This city has railways far advanced which will pierce to the heart of the granary of the world—the great wheat centres of the Canadian North-West. The very might and grandeur of the stream on which Quebec is built is in her favour as compared with other centres of commerce, for her visitors have little tax to pay when a favouring wind fails them, while steam must be employed against the strong currents of the upper river. The gigantic quays and the feeding lines of rail stretching inwards unbroken to the prairies, must, in the future ensure to the ancient capital a place among the most flourishing cities of the continent."

**The River St. Charles**, whose outlet is seen to the right, drains part of the plain known as the plain of St. Charles. It flows from Lake St. Charles, a pleasant resort for anglers, and after passing over the falls of Lorette,

waters the fertile fields below, here and there presenting the charm of an English river. Its outlet is supposed to have been the mouth of the St. Lawrence, whose waters must have originally entered the valley at Cap Rouge. Near the mouth of the St. Charles is the site of the encampment of Jacques Cartier by whom the river was called the St. Croix.

**The Citadel** is the most prominent feature of the city proper. It covers an area of about forty acres on the summit of Cape Diamond. Under French rule, there were on the top some temporary wooden structures intended as works of defence. In 1823 plans were approved of by the Duke of Wellington, and in that year the citadel and walls were built at a cost of twenty-five millions of dollars. The fort is now in charge of the Canadian troops numbering about two hundred.

**The Dufferin Terrace** stretches along the front of the rock for a quarter of a mile at a height of one hundred and eighty feet, and forms part of the fortifications. The corner-stone of this magnificent structure was laid by the Earl of Dufferin in 1878, and is surmounted by five kiosks named respectively *Victoria*, *Louise*, *Lorne*, *Frontenac*, and *Plessis*. It is the favorite promenade of the citizens during the summer evenings. At the extremity to the right stands Castle Haldimand, all that remains of the famous Chateau St. Louis, long the Government House of Quebec.

**The Laval University** buildings stand further to the right, and with the Seminary buildings form one of the most interesting spectacles to the stranger. This institution is specially interesting on account of its collections of pictures and scientific apparatus and specimens.

**The City of Quebec**, as a whole, is generally considered to be the most interesting of cities in America. Its site is commanding, its physical surroundings are very striking, and its buildings and their annals are all that tend to interest a tourist. Whether seen from below, in ascending the river, or from the steamboat landing in the lower town, the picture it presents is equally novel and impressive. From the Terrace, or any elevated position, as for instance, the King's Bastion, the view downwards upon the wharfs and narrow streets crowded with *calèches*, upon



the busy throngs in the market places, upon the blackened throats of chimneys, the steep stairways and the dingy time worn roofs is one to be remembered. The rock separates the city into a *lower* and an *upper* town, the principal building in lower town being the Custom House (that with the dome), and in upper town the new Parliament Buildings (near completion). The other buildings in the city are all described in the usual guide books, and for further information we can refer our visitors to the works of James MacPherson LeMoine, Esq., Past-President of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. The two volumes *Quebec Past and Present* and *Picturesque Quebec* can be had at the rooms of the Historical Society (Ann street).

#### HISTORICAL NOTES.

The following table with dates will enable the reader to note at a glance the leading events of the history of our city, and this we supplement with a few notes having the date affixed as a reference :

Jacques Cartier landed on the banks of River St. Charles, Sept. 14.....	1535
Quebec founded by Samuel de Champlain, July 3.....	1608
Fort St. Louis built at Quebec.....	1620-4
Quebec surrendered to Admiral Kirke.....	1629
Quebec returned to the French.....	1632
Death of Champlain, the first Governor. Dec. 25.....	1635
Settlement formed at Sillery.....	1637
A Royal Government instituted at Quebec.....	1663
Quebec unsuccessfully besieged by Admiral Phipps.....	1690
Count de Frontenac died, Nov. 28.....	1698
Battle of the Plains of Abraham, Sept. 13.....	1759
Capitulation of Quebec, Sept. 18.....	1759
Battle of St. Foye—a French victory. April 28.....	1760
Canada ceded by treaty to England.....	1763
Blockade of Quebec by Generals Montgomery and Arnold, Nov. 10.....	1775
Death of Montgomery, 31st Dec.....	1775
Retreat of Americans from Quebec, May 6.....	1776
Division of Canada into Upper and Lower Canada.....	1791
Citadel of Quebec built by Imperial Government.....	1823
Insurrection in Canada.....	1837
Second Insurrection.....	1838
Union of the two Provinces in one.....	1841
Dominion of Canada formed, July 1.....	1867

Departure of English troops from Citadel.....	1870-1
Second Centenary of Foundation of Bishopric of Quebec by Monseigneur Laval, Oct. 1st, 1674.....	1874
Centenary of Repulse of Arnold and Montgomery before Quebec, on 31st Dec. 1775.....	31st December, 1875
Dufferin Plans of City embellishment, Christmas day.....	1875
Departure of the Earl of Dufferin, 18th Oct.....	1878
Arrival of Marquis of Lorne & Princess Louis, 20th Nov..	1878
Dufferin Terrace named, 29th July.....	1879
“ City Gates, St. Louis and Kent, erected.....	1879
Arrival of the Marquis of Lansdowne.....	1883

**1535.** Jacques Cartier made in all three voyages to Canada. He spent his first winter on the north bank of the river St. Charles. In 1843 the timbers of one of his vessels were dug up at the mouth of the *St. Michel*. The site of the Indian town of Stadacona is supposed to have occupied that portion of the city known as St. John suburbs leading towards St. Roch, and Cartier's fort must have stood on or near the ground opposite the Marine Hospital. Cartier's journal was published by the Literary and Historical Society in 1843. There exists also an engraving of his departure from Quebec for St. Malo.

**1608-1635.** Champlain raised his first pile of wooden buildings near the site of the old lower town market. His "Abitation" stood very probably near the corner of St. Peter and Sous-le-Fort streets, not far from the spot where now stands one of the oldest churches in Canada, *Notre-Dame des Victoires*, so called in commemoration of the repulse of Phipps, before Quebec in 1690, and the dispersion by a storm of Admiral Walker's squadron in 1711. Champlain was probably buried in a *sépulchre particulier* near the old Chateau St. Louis, where now stands the Post Office. The Chateau buildings consisted of three structures, Fort St. Louis, *Chateau* proper, and Castle Haldimand; the latter being all that remains of this historical nook. When Champlain surrendered to the Kirkes, he made an inventory of the armament which shows how weak it was previous to the erection of the later *Chateau*, so long the residence of the Governors. The old stone bearing the date 1647 was one found by workmen engaged in levelling the yard of the old *Chateau* previous to the completion of Castle Haldimand. Old James Thompson tells us how he got the masons to lay it in the cheek of the gate of the new building.

**1637.** The Sillery Mission was founded by Noel Brulart de Sillery, a French nobleman who placed permanently at the disposal of the Jesuits 20,000 livres towards its support. A monument erected to the memory of Father Massé first missionary to Canada, indicates the site near which the chapel stood: near it, still stands the missionaries' house in a good state of preservation and occupied as offices by R. R. Dobell & Co.

**1690.** Walley's Journal published in Smith's *History of Canada* gives an account of this siege. The troops landed near the mouth of the St. Charles while the squadron opened a cannonade against the city from the harbour. The fire from the city drove Phipps back, while the advance of the land forces was checked by the militia sheltered by the bushes and the rocks. In 1711, the project of taking the city was resumed by Sir Hovenden Walker, only to result in similar defeat.

**1698.** Frontenac was buried in the chapel of the Récollet Convent which stood partly upon the ground now occupied by the Anglican Cathedral. After the fire which destroyed the Récollets Church the remains of Frontenac were re-interred in what is now known as the Basilica. In the coffin was found a small leaden box containing the heart of the Governor, a discovery which gave credence to the tradition that the heart of the Count had been sent to his widow in France, only to be sent back by the haughty Countess with the remark that she did not want a dead heart which when beating did not belong to her.

**1759.** The Plains of Abraham took the name from a settler named Abraham Martin who seems to have owned the property as early as the days of Champlain. The exact spot where General Wolfe fell was indicated by a rock not far from the redoubt near the fence which divides the race-ground from the enclosures on the east. In one of the enclosures near the road is the well (now filled up) whence they brought him water during his last moments. Montcalm was buried in an excavation made by the bursting of a shell within the precincts of the Ursuline Convent. In 1833, the grave was pointed out by Sister Dubé, who had as a child attended his funeral. The skeleton was found

and the skull placed in the custody of the chaplain. The marble slab in the Church of the Convent was erected by Lord Aylmer, in 1832. The monument to Wolfe and Montcalm in the Governor's Garden was erected in 1827.

**1760.** The statue on monument on the St. Foye road, which commemorates this event, was presented by Prince Napoleon Bonaparte in 1855. The battle lasted about two hours, with a loss on both sides of four thousand. "De Levi, observing that the British General had over-weakened his left to strengthen his right, resolved to profit by it. He ordered his troops to charge the left wing of the English with the bayonet and to thrust them off the St. Louis Road on to the Ste. Foye. By this manoeuvre, he took in flank the whole of Murray's army, drove the corps off the height of Sainte-Genevieve, and cut off the British from the line of retreat to the city. The Rousillon Regiment then attacking the English put them to flight. At the same time, their light troops gave way, and the fugitives, throwing themselves in front and in rear of the enemy's centre, caused his fire to be suspended. - De Levi profited by this disorder to cause his own left to charge the British right wing, which he completely routed." In September of the same year, the capitulation of the city took place, notwithstanding De Levi's triumph.

**1775.** Montgomery received his death-wound at *Pres-de-Ville*, at the foot of Cape Diamond. His remains were carried to a house on St. Louis Street, and his sword fell into the hands of James Thompson, a volunteer in Wolfe's army. The place of his attack has been graphically described by Judge Henry, a description which appears in *Picturesque Quebec*. His headquarters were at Holland House, on the St. Foye Road. Arnold, after the unsuccessful attack in Sault-au-Matelot Street, was carried by his own men to the General Hospital Convent. His headquarters were on the St. Charles, near the bridge now known as Scott's Bridge.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION.

Places to be visited in Town include Laval University with its Museum; the Seminary and its chapel with its collection of original paintings by the masters of the French School; the Ursuline Convent with its paintings,

monuments and historical memoirs ; Morrin College in which are situated the Library and Museum of the Literary and Historical Society ; the Hotel-Dieu with its chapel and paintings (an institution originally endowed by Cardinal de Richelieu) ; the Pasilica ; the Church of Notre Dame des Victoires, built in 1690 ; the Parliament Buildings and the Citadel.

**Places outside the Town.** The Plains of Abraham with its monument to Wolfe ; Wolfe's Cove where the British gained a footing upon the plain ; Lorette with its Falls and Indian settlement ; Beauport Asylum ; Montmorency Falls ; the Chaudiere Falls ; the St. Foye Road with its monument ; Chateau Bigot beyond the village of Charlesbourg. The principal drives include one to the Falls passing through the straggling village of Beauport ; one by the Little River Road to Lorette returning by way of Charlesbourg ; one to Cap Rouge by the St. Louis Road returning by the St. Foye Road ; and one through the village of St. Joseph returning by way of the Levi Forts.

**Steamboat Communication.**—The regular steamer of the Allan and Dominion Line respectively sails for England every Saturday morning. The Richelieu Co's Steamboat sails for Montreal every day at five o'clock p.m. The Saguenay Steamboats sail on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at half-past seven a.m. There are four regular ferries—between Quebec and Levi every fifteen minutes ; between Quebec and Island of Orleans every two hours ; between Quebec and Grand Trunk terminus to suit the arrival and departure of trains ; and between Quebec and Sillery nearly every two hours. The "Miramichi" of the Quebec Steamship Co., sails every alternate Tuesday for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

**Railway Communication.** Trains leave Québec for Montreal by the North Shore Railway (station at the foot of Palace Street) at 9.15 a.m. and 10.10 p.m., and by the Grand Trunk Railway (station at the end of Dalhousie Street) at 2.15 and 9.15 p.m. For Halifax and St. John, in the Maritime Provinces, the express leaves every morning (station in Levi by the lower ferry) at 8 o'clock in the morning. Trains leave for St. Raymond, by the Lake St.

John Railway, at 6.45 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. The train for Sherbrooke, by the Quebec Central Railway, leaves at 1.45 p.m., (station in Levi by the lower ferry.)

Mails for England direct, every Saturday, at 11 a.m., and *via* the United States, every Monday, at 5 p.m. For other places, there are daily mails by the regular trains leaving Quebec. The letters are delivered, as in England, by carriers.

The St. Louis Hotel, on St. Louis street, and the Russell House, on St. Ann street, conducted conjointly, are the best hotels in the city.

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